

Patent Claims

1. A coffee machine (1) for preparing at least a first coffee beverage at a first brewing pressure and at least a second coffee beverage at a second brewing pressure, the second brewing pressure being higher than the first brewing pressure, comprising a brewing means (5) which is connected via an outlet line (9) to a tap opening (1), and a throttle means (12,112) which is provided in the outlet line (9) and which is adjustable between a first and a second flow cross-section, the first flow cross-section being greater than the second flow cross-section, **characterized in** that the throttle means (12, 112) is adjustable by the action of the brewing pressure.
2. The coffee machine according to claim 1, **characterized in** that the throttle means (12, 112) is adjustable by the higher brewing pressure.
3. The coffee machine according to claim 1 or 2, **characterized in** that the throttle means (12, 112) comprises a piston (16, 116) with a piston surface (17) which can be actuated by the brewing pressure for moving the piston (16, 116) in one direction, and a motion means (19) for moving the piston (16, 116) in the opposite direction.
4. The coffee machine according to claim 3, **characterized in** that the motion means includes a spring (19) having a force greater than the lower brewing pressure exerted on the throttle means (12, 112), but smaller than the higher brewing pressure.
5. The coffee machine according to claim 3 or 4, **characterized in** that the piston (16, 116) has a sealing surface (22, 122) closing the larger flow cross-section.
6. The coffee machine according to any one of claims 3 to 5, **characterized in** that a passage (24, 124) defining the smaller passage cross-section is assigned to the piston (16, 116).

7. The coffee machine according to any one of claims 1 to 6, **characterized in** that the smaller flow cross-section is defined by a permanently open passage (24, 124) and the larger flow cross-section by the passage (24, 124) and a closable flow path (21) surrounding the passage (24, 124).

8. The coffee machine according to any one of claims 1 to 7, **characterized in** that the throttle means (12, 112) includes a housing (13) having an inlet (14) and an outlet (15) in which a piston is movable with a piston surface (17) facing the inlet (14) and with a sealing surface (22, 122) which faces the outlet (15) and is engageable with a sealing seat (23, 123) defining the larger flow cross-section, a flow path (21) being provided between the inlet (14) and the sealing seat (23, 123) between the outer surface of the piston (16, 116) and the inner surface of the housing (13).

9. The coffee machine according to any one of claims 6 to 8, **characterized in** that the passage (24) is a through-hole extending through the piston (16).

10. The coffee machine according to any one of claims 6 to 8, **characterized in** that the passage (124) is formed by at least one passage opening between a sealing surface (122) provided on the piston (116) and an associated sealing seat (123).